United Nations PBC/1/OC/SR.9

Peacebuilding Commission

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Organizational Committee

First session

Summary record of the 9th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 20 June 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Løvald ..... (Vice-Chairperson) (Norway)

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07-38863 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola), Mr. Lovald (Norway), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/1/OC/13)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Modality of transmitting documents of the Peacebuilding Commission to other United Nations organs

2. **The Chairperson** recalled that the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission had reached an understanding on a proposal to transmit the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council by means of a single letter from the Chairman of the Burundi configuration co-addressed to the Presidents of those organs. A draft of that letter had been distributed to the members of the Organizational Committee.

3. He also recalled that the resolutions establishing the Peacebuilding Commission had defined, in broad terms, the relationship between the latter and the three principal organs of the United Nations. Accordingly, members of the Burundi configuration had emphasized the need to communicate to those organs the progress made in considering the peacebuilding needs and priorities of Burundi. As the Strategic Framework was the main outcome of the Commission's first year of engagement with Burundi, the Organizational Committee should endorse the aforementioned proposal. Technical experts had advised him that the documents in question should be issued as documents of the Peacebuilding Commission and bear their own symbols.

4. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), supported by **Mr. Knyazev** (Russian Federation), said that, while he could agree to the Chairperson's proposal in the specific case at issue, it should not set a precedent: transmittal procedures for future documents of the Peacebuilding Commission should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

5. **The Chairperson** said that, if he heard no objection, and bearing in mind the comments made by the representatives of Egypt and the Russian Federation, he would take it that the Organizational Committee agreed to adopt the transmittal procedure he had just described.

6. *It was so decided.*

Other matters

7. **Mr. Deruffe** (France) enquired whether the Peacebuilding Commission had adopted a workplan for the forthcoming months.

8. **Ms. McAskie** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Support) said that a provisional schedule had been drawn up for the period from September 2007 to June 2008. The official workplan would be discussed by the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission, who would soon be elected.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations PBC/1/OC/SR.10

Peacebuilding Commission

Distr.: General
4 September 2007

Original: English

Organizational Committee

First session

Summary record of the 10th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 June 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Martins ..... (Angola)

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07-39938 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/1/OC/14)

1. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Commission wished to adopt the provisional agenda in document PBC/1/OC/14, as amended by reversing the order of items 2 and 3.

2. *It was so decided.*

Remarks by the Secretary-General

3. **The Secretary-General** congratulated the Commission on the conclusion of its historic first session. Support to fragile societies as they recovered from the devastation of war was crucial to prevent their relapse into conflict. The international community needed to draw on the lessons of the past and pay sustained attention to countries emerging from conflict.

4. The Commission had initially focused on supporting the peacebuilding efforts of the peoples of Sierra Leone and Burundi. In the course of its work with those countries, the Commission had fulfilled its mandate to bring together the relevant actors and had developed exciting new tools for integrated strategies for peacebuilding and recovery to ensure that the peace built would be enduring.

5. Peace and development must be based on the needs of the countries themselves. In that regard, the marriage of national ownership and international partnership was the key to the consolidation of peace and development; national, regional and international actors had to operate with a common strategic framework and common commitments. That partnership was exemplified by the participation of key actors such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Community and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), along with civil society, in the work of the Commission. In addition, the Commission had agreed to modalities for the continued participation of those partners.

6. Recalling the recently completed Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi and a similar document that was being prepared for Sierra Leone, he said that the United Nations system would fully support the peacebuilding process in those countries. In that regard, the Organization, on the recommendation of Commission, had allocated $35 million from the Peacebuilding Fund to each of those countries. Those funds were already being used to support critical peacebuilding activities that reflected the priorities agreed between the Commission and the countries themselves.

7. Although some might say that the Commission's work during its first year was not enough, he understood how significant that work was and was proud to be associated with it. Congratulating the outgoing Chairman, he said that he looked forward to working with the new Chairman and that the United Nations system would continue to provide the Commission with its full support.

Remarks by the Chairman

8. **The Chairman** said that the establishment of the Commission had offered the United Nations the opportunity to be more relevant and effective in post-conflict situations. The challenges posed by the enormous requirements of building a sustainable peace, the need to introduce a systemic approach to peacebuilding and the high expectations of the peoples of post-conflict countries could not be underestimated.

9. As the Commission prepared to present its first annual report to the General Assembly, it was important to assess that new body's accomplishments and the challenges that lay before it. To that end, he called on all relevant stakeholders who had been involved in peacebuilding efforts around the world to offer their views.

10. Highlighting some key aspects of the report, he said that the Commission had embraced national ownership as its core principle for addressing the needs of the two countries under consideration, Burundi and Sierra Leone. National stakeholders had been actively engaged in its deliberations and would continue to be so. The Commission had also been able to operate within a flexible, transparent and inclusive framework that had facilitated the development of partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. Those partnerships would continue to be an essential part of its peacebuilding efforts.

11. Owing to its unique membership structure, the success of the Commission's peacebuilding efforts would be determined, to a great extent, by the commitment of those members to the cause of peacebuilding. Its relevance and effectiveness would also b depend on a well-resourced Peacebuilding

Support Office and a dynamic Peacebuilding Fund, and the relationship that it would develop with them.

12. Financial support was essential for effective peacebuilding. During its first year of operation, the Commission had helped to focus the attention of donors on the priorities for peacebuilding in Burundi and Sierra Leone. The marshalling of the resources pledged would follow once the respective integrated peacebuilding strategies had been finalized. Although the Commission would continue to focus its attention on those two countries, it would also need to consider how to respond to future requests for assistance from other countries emerging from conflict, through the referral mechanisms established in General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005).

13. The purpose of the Commission was to help set in motion actions that would meet the expectations of peoples who sought sustainable peace and development. While the Commission had taken important steps in that regard, it was urgent for it to outgrow the procedural and institutional concerns of its first year of operation. The Commission needed to demonstrate a strong political will and commitment to the peoples of countries emerging from conflict. That was a challenge and moral duty that he was confident the Commission would be able to assume during its next session.

Remarks by the President of the General Assembly

14. **Ms. Al-Khalifa** (President of the General Assembly) said that the establishment of the Commission represented the most concrete outcome of the 2005 World Summit and served as a reminder of the Organization's important mission, which, in the words of former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, was "to save mankind from hell". Without peace and stability, it would be impossible to achieve economic development and promote human rights.

15. The challenges facing post-conflict countries were huge and the Commission, as an institutional mechanism dedicated to addressing those challenges, had a critical role to play in promoting post-conflict recovery. Despite the difficulties inherent to establishing a new body and developing its procedures, the Commission had firmly established itself as an important new intergovernmental body and was to be commended for having achieved tangible results that would benefit the peoples of Burundi and Sierra Leone.

16. The Commission should consolidate the gains it had made during its first year and continue to develop a dynamic and balanced relationship with all relevant United Nations organs. In that regard, it should seek to develop a closer relationship with the General Assembly, as called for in Assembly resolution 60/180. The Assembly must continue to provide overall policy guidance in support of the Commission's work.

17. Going forward, the Commission should focus on ensuring that the peacebuilding process remained on track and in line with integrated peacebuilding strategies. In order to do that, it needed the full commitment of the Organization to eliminate the few remaining obstacles that stood in the way of its becoming fully and effectively operational.

Remarks by the President of the Security Council

18. **Mr. Verbeke** (President of the Security Council) recalled that, nearly one year ago, the Security Council had referred the situations in Burundi and Sierra Leone to the Commission, thereby setting into motion its work. The United Nations and its international partners in peacebuilding were currently reaping the fruits of the Commission's labour in the form of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi.

19. During the past year, the Commission had succeeded in developing working methods that engaged all stakeholders while maintaining due respect for the Governments of the countries concerned. Through the use of field missions and videoconferencing, it had avoided adding a new layer of coordination at Headquarters and had reinforced, instead, coordination at the country level. It had also ensured the much needed participation of civil society and non-governmental, regional and subregional organizations and had adopted rules for their participation in its proceedings.

20. The Security Council had increasingly integrated the role of the Commission into its own work during the past year. The chairmen of the Burundi and Sierra Leone configurations had been invited to participate in the Council's deliberations regarding the situations in those two countries and the Council looked forward to receiving advice from the Commission in that regard. Furthermore, the Council had recently held an open debate on the Commission that had furthered

productive interaction between the two bodies. The Council intended to continue integrating its work with that of the Commission.

21. Noting that additional countries might be added to the Commission's agenda during its next session, he said that the expansion of the agenda should not come at the expense of its work with Burundi and Sierra Leone. As it embarked on its second session and further refined its procedures, the Commission would have more time to concentrate on substantial matters. In that regard, its main task would be to ensure that the gaps and challenges in the peacebuilding process were addressed in a timely and coherent manner.

Remarks by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

22. **Mr. Hannesson** (Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council), delivering a statement on behalf of the President of the Council, welcomed the Commission's recognition of the link between poverty, weak State capacity and conflict and the fact that the integrated peacebuilding strategies endorsed by the Commission included job creation, especially for young persons, capacity development and the delivery of basic social services as priorities. Only by making substantial progress in those areas could the Commission help to ensure the sustainability of national peacebuilding efforts.

23. The Council would ensure at its 2007 annual session that the best practices and lessons learned which were relevant to the economic and social recovery of countries emerging from conflict would be communicated to the Commission for its consideration. Discussion within the General Assembly, Security Council and Commission suggested that the Economic and Social Council and the Commission would need to establish an appropriate institutional relationship to harmonize their respective roles in the economic, social, humanitarian and environmental aspects of recovery, integration and reconstruction in post-conflict countries. The Council stood ready to explore practical modalities for interaction with the Commission in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 60/180 and 61/16.

24. A close working relationship with the Council could enrich the Commission's deliberations on country situations. The Commission could in turn inform the Council of its lessons learned in various aspects of peacebuilding. Those lessons could be included in the policy guidance for United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, thereby strengthening the Council's own mandate to coordinate economic, social, humanitarian and environmental efforts.

25. The Council stood ready to respond to and implement the recommendations of the Commission, as appropriate. They should work together to mobilize the entire institutional machinery of the United Nations, including the Council's own subsidiary bodies, to promote best practices to address the needs of post-conflict countries and prevent their relapse into conflict.

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its first session

26. **The Chairman** drew attention to the provisional report on the work of the Peacebuilding Commission at its first session (PBC/2/OC/L.1), which was the result of intensive consultations. He expressed gratitude for the flexibility shown by members in the drafting of a text which would be acceptable to all. The adoption of the report would mark an important step towards the establishment of an integrated peacebuilding strategy and would send an important message that the Commission was steadily moving forward. As negotiations over the text had continued until recently, the report existed in an English version only. He took it that the Commission wished to adopt the text of the report, which would immediately be submitted for translation.

27. *It was so decided.*

28. **Ms. Mladineo** (Croatia) said that her Government, which had had considerable experience in peacebuilding, had strongly supported the Commission as a much needed new body filling gap within the United Nations system. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1645 (2005) and General Assembly resolution 60/180, the Commission had been established, inter alia, to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources, propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery and lay the foundation for sustainable development. The Commission had made progress towards those objectives. The development of a Strategic Framework for Burundi was one notable example. Her Government would remain committed to the peace

consolidation efforts in Burundi within the framework of country-specific meetings.

29. **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau), commending the collective spirit and inclusive and transparent manner in which the Commission had worked during its first session, said that the presence of the Secretary-General and others at current meeting reflected the commitment of the Organization to helping in the recovery and reconstruction of the most needy post-conflict countries. The meeting also showed that efforts must be combined to ensure that peace was maintained and to give fresh hope to the people of such countries. The work of the Commission was in keeping with the lofty ideals of the United Nations and served as a model for the genuine reform of the Organization sought by the international community.

30. **Mr. Elbakly** (Egypt) said that the first year had been a good experience for all concerned, despite the difficulties encountered. His delegation trusted that the documents adopted by the Commission would be translated and presented in due time in future sessions. It looked forward to better organization of the work of the Commission during the forthcoming session. Although there had been an understandable need to hold many meetings during the first session, in future the number of meetings should be reduced.

31. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking also on behalf of Sri Lanka, said that the adoption of the report was a decisive moment in the Commission's history. The report would contribute to the existing body of knowledge about peacekeeping acquired by the United Nations. The Commission had successfully dealt with several administrative and organizational issues and had fulfilled its mandate in addressing the needs of the first two countries considered. The report was a comprehensive and faithful account of the work of the Commission during its first session.

32. The developmental aspects of any strategy to help countries emerging from conflict were crucial. Although the Commission must not ignore fundamental principles such as the rule of law, security sector reform and human rights, those principles should not be pursued to the detriment of providing immediate post-conflict risk reduction strategies. Those strategies must include education and training, agricultural development, private sector reform and other capacity-building measures, including the creation of an investor-friendly climate. They must lead to job creation, enhanced employment opportunities and, ultimately, overall improvement in the daily lives of local populations. His delegation looked forward to further dialogue within the Commission as it built on the successes of recent months and worked swiftly to implement priority projects.

33. The Commission had yet to identify the means by which funds approved for disbursement could reach the recipient countries in the shortest possible time. It was not sufficient to identify urgent needs; attention must be given to follow-up actions at the most critical stages of the peacebuilding process.

34. Several principles should guide the future work of the Commission. It was not a donor organization. Its activities must be comprehensive and involve all stakeholders. Decisions regarding the provision of financial resources should be guided by national priorities and based on the collective decisions of the Commission. Recommendations for assistance must highlight the priority areas established by the Government of the countries in question in order to strengthen the process of national ownership.

35. **Mr. Ntakirutimana** (Burundi) expressed gratitude for a year of good collaboration, shared work and mutual trust. His Government had gained much experience and knowledge during the past year through its work with the Commission. Burundi felt reassured and protected by the Commission's presence. His country had confidence in itself and was determined to build on current achievements. His Government reiterated its readiness to continue to work with the Commission in a flexible manner. It hoped that the second session would be characterized by the implementation of the projects identified and that future meetings would evaluate progress made on implementation rather than discussing documents.

36. **Mr. Løvald** (Norway) said that the Commission had made a good start, but that important challenges remained. The annual report gave a thorough account of the work during the first session and would help the Commission to take stock of progress made and further steps required. The Commission had laid a solid foundation during the past year for its work as a flexible, innovative and country-specific body.

37. His delegation hoped that the report would stimulate discussion at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly. The Commission might consider the possibility of reports focused on issues or a thematic

report on one or several areas of peacebuilding to encourage the Assembly to participate more actively in its work. All the principal organs of the United Nations must remain seized of the Commission's peacebuilding agenda.

38. The Commission's evolving relationships with the countries on its agenda had proved to be its strength. It had set a new standard for such relationships, which would not have been possible without the close cooperation with the Governments and the Missions of the countries concerned and the determination of members to contribute to peace consolidation.

39. The conclusion of the Strategic Framework for Burundi was a major achievement. His delegation was particularly pleased by the consultative process in Burundi during the development of the Framework and noted with appreciation the role of women's groups in the process. There was a need to establish a tracking and review mechanism in conjunction with the Government of Burundi, involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society. It should be closely linked to the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and focus on mapping activities and identifying gaps and needs, including for sequencing and prioritization. The Commission also depended on United Nations agencies to incorporate the Framework in their ongoing work. The Commission must put greater emphasis on resource mobilization.

40. His delegation hoped that the Peacebuilding Support Office would serve not only as a secretariat for the Commission but also as a resource centre for peacebuilding, drawing on advice from the entire United Nations system. Its role as a coordinator for peacebuilding within and beyond the system was an important element of the peacebuilding architecture. The Office was particularly responsible for ensuring that United Nations agencies applied the strategic framework for Burundi and the Sierra Leone Compact and future integrated peacebuilding strategies.

41. It was essential to include institutional donors and non-State actors in the work of the Commission. Civil society, the media, the private sector and other stakeholders played an important part in peace consolidation. More time should be spent on outreach activities in future so that the peacebuilding agenda would enjoy even broader ownership.

42. **Ms. Pierce** (United Kingdom) said that the Governments of Burundi and Sierra Leone should be commended for their commitment and engagement in the peacebuilding process. The mandate of the Commission to keep world attention focused on fragile countries and mobilize resources to help them as they emerged from conflict was more crucial than ever.

43. Key lessons learned in the first year of the Commission's operations included the importance of broad and substantive consultations on the ground to bring civil society into the peacebuilding process and the need for capacity-building. The Commission must also define at the outset how to bring in added value in a particular country situation and be clear about the product expected from the beginning of its engagement with a Government — whether a political strategy, a framework for development policy or another product suited to the particular circumstances in that country. Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund sequencing must be thought through; from the experience of the first year, it seemed that strategy work should come first.

44. It would be important to define how the Commission worked with its parent bodies and the Economic and Social Council. The issue of reporting had been a thorny one, but it should not be allowed to hold back the Commission's focus on its country work.

45. Finally, the Commission must become even more practical in its operations, and it would be appropriate to reflect on the capacity and speed required in fulfilling its mandate. Actions should be driven by events on the ground more than the timetable of meetings at Headquarters, as its operations were not just about funding, but included political support and technical assistance.

46. **Mr. Appreku** (Ghana) said that the report on the work of the Peacebuilding Commission was an accurate reflection of what had been accomplished during the year. In keeping with the United Nations-African Union framework for cooperation, it should be possible to mobilize the needed regional support for the Commission's work in Burundi and Sierra Leone. Ghana would fulfil its commitments and responsibilities towards sustainable peace in those and any other countries placed on the agenda, as part of its policy of good-neighbourly relations. It would work to transform zones of conflict into zones of peace, where children were sent to school, not to shoot.

47. The Strategic Framework for Burundi recently adopted and the similar undertaking in progress for Sierra Leone were aimed at tackling the root causes of conflict. The African Post-Conflict Reconstruction Policy Framework defined that concept as including short-, medium- and long-term programmes that addressed the needs of affected populations, prevented escalation of disputes, avoided relapse into violence, addressed the root causes of conflict and built and consolidated sustainable peace.

48. Peacebuilding was not a single target, but a never-ending process that required a democratic State, a nation-building approach, good governance, rule of law, observance of human rights and combating corruption, where the work of the people was its main goal. The Strategic Framework for Burundi highlighted the principle of national ownership and the need for active participation of civil society, but that could not be used as an excuse for inaction. The international community, which included regional organizations and the Peacebuilding Commission, had a unique task and shared responsibility to prevent the outbreak of conflict, which had been emphasized in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit. Facing that heavy responsibility would require collective action.

49. **Mr. Garcia González** (El Salvador) said that the Commission had faced the challenge of creating a new body and meeting high expectations. His own country had endured 12 years of conflict and, based on that experience, he believed that the Commission had made a good start. The regional dimension of peacebuilding was very important, and it would be essential to include it in future analyses.

50. **Mr. Majoor** (Netherlands) said that, in his view, the Commission had addressed the substance of the issues before it. It was reaching the critical phase of implementation of stakeholder commitments, which should lead to progress on the ground. He paid a tribute to the Government of Sierra Leone for its participation and commitment to the process.

51. **Mr. Nina** (Brazil) said that great progress had been made over the course of the year in filling the void in the international system as regards post-conflict situations. There were huge expectations in international public opinion as to the Commission's performance in addressing that gap. The report showed progress, and thematic discussions and field missions had been instrumental in determining the Commission's role.

52. The draft peacebuilding strategy for Sierra Leone was a road map for future achievement in that area. He agreed that there could be no lasting peace without economic development. The Commission must help to provide the necessary conditions for economic growth for the benefit of all.

53. **Mr. Rowe** (Sierra Leone) said that the Peacebuilding Commission was an experiment in international cooperation and post-conflict peacebuilding which had emphasized the importance of delivery in order to transform strategy into concrete action, thereby giving full effect to the principle of national ownership. He hoped that the seeds planted in the first year of the Commission's work would bear fruit. Its success would be reflected in the lives of the people of Sierra Leone and Burundi. His Government had been impressed by what the Commission had managed to do in its first year against all odds. In his view, the field mission by members of the Commission to Sierra Leone had been a critical element in the success of its work.

54. He believed that the way forward could be found in the report of the Commission, which stated that the main challenge was to maximize its impact on the ground to make the United Nations peacebuilding architecture an effective instrument of international collaboration in support of countries emerging from conflict.

Closure of the first session of the Peacebuilding Commission

55. **The Chairman** declared the first session of the Peacebuilding Commission closed.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.